



August, 2015

Volume 39, Issue 8



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

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Summer doldrums I think they call it. As this is written the solar indices A and K are at 20 & 3 respectively. Outdoor temperatures near triple digits make it too hot to work on antennas. So let's go to a Hamfest!

Our very own Huntsville Hamfest is only a week away. Both commercial & flea market space have been sold out for weeks and the forum schedule promises something for everyone. Many of our club members will be heavily involved with volunteer work during the event – including card checking by Steve AG4W and Mike K4ADK at the DX Club booth.

DX Banquet ticket sales are going VERY well. We may sell out the room. If you don't yet have your ticket to spend the evening with fellow DX'ers from across the Southeast listening to Gregg Marco W6IZT, be sure to purchase it soon.

We're going to give Golden Corral one more chance this Tuesday to provide the promised private room for our meeting. Last month the shift manager bumped us for another group rendering it impossible to present a program. We have assurances from another manager this should not happen again.

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

Fiber-Optics Improves RF Immunity

July Program by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

We have the promise of the management at the Golden Corral that last month's snafu won't be repeated—we'll give them one more try this month before making a temporary judgement. Last month's program (Fiber Optics Improves RF Immunity) will be pushed forward to August. See you around 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for the program.

Our club picnic is about a month away, hoping we've found that window in the weather between the heat of summer & fall rain. We'll gather at Monte Sano State Park on Saturday, September 12 for fun, friendship, and food. Pot luck as in years past. We'll start throwing wires in trees for some portable operating around 9:30 AM and plan our meal around noon. When entering the park, mention you're with the "radio club" for free admission.

It's that time of the year again – new officer nominations. At the August meeting, a nominating committee will be named to choose, cajole, or shanghai candidates for the coming year.

With everything on our collective plates this month, there one more thing. Please check the upcoming DXpedition announcements for worthy club funding. We'll discuss those at the next couple of meetings.

73,

Mark N4BCD



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July Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Vann Johns, W4VPZ, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

President Mark Brown N4BCD, opened the meeting in the large dining room at Golden Corral, as our reserved meeting room had been given to another group. 21 members and 1 visitor were in attendance.

The officers met to discuss Hamfest and Banquet details, and to round out the calendar with programs for our scheduled meetings. The annual picnic has been moved in hopes of benefitting from better weather this year. We will begin setting up at the bluff pavilion in the picnic area at the Monte Sano State Park at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 12. Potluck lunch will be served beginning at noon. Terranova's was chosen as our Christmas party location again this year. Reservations have been made for our group for 6:00 p.m. on December 8.

(Your secretary/treasurer is doing her best decoding some of your handwriting on the sign in list.) Larry Morphew NS4Q worked a Swedish station with 2.5W on 20m. Mark Brown N4BCS (FM5, J68), Steve Werner AG4W (S5, PA, DJ, ON, PY) and Bob Friend KC4TNC (XE) had some good 6m contacts. Al Watson W4ABW was happy to get QSLs

for 13 new challenge, 5 new IOTA, and 1 new CW. John Stensby N5DF finally got a QSL card from TI9 (Cocos island). Tim Wininger AB4B reported MDO, HBO, 4X4, and MW0. Tom Duncan KG4CUY reported 4J, EK, and JT. Rob Conklin N4WGY and Kelley Johns W4VPZ both reported clean sweeps for the 13 Colonies event.

There are 37 DX Club Banquet tickets remaining. A last year's information and an old PayPal link was discovered on the W4QB page on QRZ.com, but the information has been corrected and the PayPal link disabled.

An EIN number from the IRS was established and tied to the Club bank account last week. This is to protect the club from liability.

W4QB Repeater Status: some limbs need to be trimmed around the tower and guy lines before the feed lines can be replaced.

Rob Conklin N4WGY announced the Amazon Prime Day beginning at midnight. MD Smith WA4DXP announced the upcoming 2m Sprint event. Warren Alford KJ4RAQ announced the light-

house event Bob Ehresman KV4PC will set up in the Big Spring Park on Saturday during the Hamfest.

Since we did not have space for a screen and projector for our program, the schedule will be slipped one month. In place of the program, Mark Brown N4BCD gave a synopsis of the outstanding job performed by K4BFT/

Treasurer's Report:

HARC at Field Day this year.

Current announced bank balance:
Beginning Balance \$ 5441.21

PayPal pending transfer \$ 366.60

Withdrawals \$ 0.00

TOTAL \$ 5807.81

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley V. Johns W4VPZ

NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Content Appeal

LongPath Staff

This oddly-shaped space was originally blank, but in waste-not, want-not spirit, the LongPath staff suggested it be used to appeal for content.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large directors	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

In consultation with the Vice President (a consultation he may not remember, but it sounded like a good claim to make), this notion was broadened to encompass looking for content of two types: LongPath articles, pictures, quips, anecdotes, observations..., and meeting content in the form of programs. Keep in mind programs needn't be delivered by NADXC regulars: the FLDIGI program was a great example of what can be done by tapping other local talent.

LongPath content may be emailed to duncan1@ds-s.com, and program suggestions to kj4raq@comcast.net. If you

send things to the wrong place, we'll sort it out. Content and program suggestions are welcome any time of the day or night.

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

DX Contests for August

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

WAE CW DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Aug 8, 0000Z to Aug. 9, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial No. See web for QTC rules.

See page 81 August QST and www.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc.en

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Aug. 15, 0000Z to Aug. 16, 1600Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 81, August QST and www.sartg.com

Keymen's Club of Japan Contest (CW), 160-6 meters

Aug. 15, 1200Z to Aug. 16, 1200Z

Exchange: RST and prefecture or continent

See page 81, August QST and www.kcj-cw.com

Russian District Award Contest, (CW, SSB), 160-10 meters

Aug. 15, 0800Z to Aug. 16, 0800Z

Exchange: RS(T), Serial or Russian District

See page 81, August QST and rda-award.org/rdac1.htm

CVA DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Aug. 15, 2100Z to Aug. 16, 2100Z

Exchange: RST

See page 81, Aug. QST and www.creac.org

SARL HF Digital Contest (DIG), 80-20 meters

Aug. 16, 1300Z to Aug. 16, 1630Z

Exchange: RST, serial no.

See page 81, Aug. QST and www.sarl.org.za

CVA DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Aug. 22, 2100Z to Aug. 23, 2100Z

Exchange: RS

See page 81, Aug. QST and www.creac.org

YO DX Contest, (CW,SSB), 80-10 meters

Aug. 29, 1200Z to Aug. 30, 1159Z

Exchange: RS(T), Serial or YO district

See page 81, August QST and www.yodx.ro/en/english

SARL HF CW Contest (CW), 80-20 meters

Aug. 30, 1300Z to Aug. 30, 1630Z



Exchange: RST, serial no.

See page 81, Aug. QST and www.sarl.org.za

OTHERS:

SCC RTTY championship,

1200Z, Aug. 29 to 1159Z, Aug. 30

All Asian DX Contest, Phone

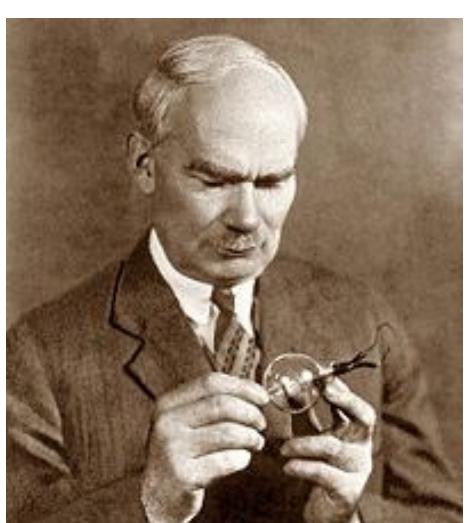
0000Z, Sep 5 to 2400Z, Sep 6

WAE DX Contest, SSB;

0000Z, Sep 12 to 2359Z, Sep 13

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM



One of the most controversial figures in early radio, Lee de Forest, inventor of the Audion triode capitalizing on the Edison effect, was born in Council Bluffs, IA on August 26, 1873.

The audion was a very imperfect low-vacuum tube, but it did have gain—the first such radio component. With gain, it could be configured both as an amplifier and an oscillator, though it was left up to de Forest's great rival Edwin Armstrong to explain just how this worked.

De Forest was tremendously ambitious and hard working, but tact, humil-

ity, and finesse were not traits he valued. He started and was partner to several companies, most driven defunct due to bad business decisions, crooks who pulled the wool over his eyes, or legal expenses. His litigiousness was sometimes rewarded however—most notably in the 1924 case against Armstrong for the rights to the regenerative receiver circuit.

Having proclaimed himself Father of Radio and Grandfather of Television, De Forest died in 1961 at age 87, almost bankrupt.